

The Constitution.

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ATLANTA, GA., MAY 4, 1880.

NEW ORLEANS is doubly afflicted in reports of yellow fever, that have been sent abroad, and in the death of Dr. Choppin, who has been her mainstay in real epidemics. The reports are without foundation, and the city is healthier and cooler than usual at this time of the year.

The Ohio counties are declaring for Thurman, but there is a noticeable tide undercurrent. This movement will be given to Mr. Tyler not to Mr. James, but to the south. The statement is left in very indefinite shape, and will not probably be changed in that respect until the southern delegations to Chicago are made up.

Remains says that the cabinet position for Mr. Key will soon vacate for a place more enduring and satisfactory, will be given to Mr. Tyler not to Mr. James, but to the south. The statement is left in very indefinite shape, and will not probably be changed in that respect until the southern delegations to Chicago are made up.

The American Union telegraph company is steadily and rapidly covering the country with its wires, but while all this air that movements have been begun which have for their object the consolidation of the two rival lines. The people have come to consider a new telegraph line only as something to be gobbled.

This is another great convention week, especially on the republican side of the house. On Wednesday the republicans of Tennessee, Wisconsin and Mississippi will meet, and on the following day the republicans of New Jersey, New Hampshire, Maryland and Delaware will be gathered in convention. The only democratic convention of the week will be New Hampshire's, on Wednesday, and Ohio's on Thursday.

The adverse vote in the Italian chamber of deputies has no political significance. The right and a few groups of discontented persons of the left united, and the present ministry, which came into power in consequence of a coalition between the majority of the left, led by Signor Cairoli, and the center, led by Depretis, was defeated. No question of policy was at stake; it was simply a movement of the politicians. The king has therefore ordered a new election, instead of accepting the resignation of his ministers.

APPEARS in Afghanistan are assuming a better look for the conquerors. They will soon have the country well in hand again, but the trouble is to keep the hill tribes down during the winter season, when the invaders are at a disadvantage. Nothing but a well-protected railroad system will bring peace in Afghanistan under British rule. Trouble is now said to be brewing in Cashmere, where the maharajah has been, it is stated, intriguing with the Russians. In Burmah, too, affairs are not lovely, and altogether the new government will have its hands full in quieting the much-disturbed east.

The retirement of President Tom Scott from all railroad service has long been anticipated. Mr. Scott is the chief of our railroad magnates, and his withdrawal on account of ill-health from the immense interests that he has presided over is, therefore, an event of some consequence. His successor is already named, but he is a man, however capable and well known at home, who has yet a reputation to acquire in the country generally. Tom Scott, on the other hand, is as well known as Mr. Hayes. Englishmen say that while we have no landed aristocracy we have five or six railway presidents who, together with their boards of directors, rule the country. The retiring president is one of this number.

NO FEWER than 46,118 immigrants were landed at New York in April. This is over one a minute during the entire month. Do the people of the south realize what this increase involves in a political sense? Three months of such a flow gives a basis for a number of congresses. In the month of March, every three months the north is now gaining a member of congress at the expense of the south. It will not take long, at this rate, to deprive the south of any considerable weight in public affairs. Such a result can be averted, but it cannot be by a policy of inaction in the matter of immigration. Of the immigrants that arrived in April, it is not probable that one thousand came to the south.

The Railroad Commission and the Lumber Interests.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Savannah News, in alluding to the reputation of the lumber interests to the railroad commission, very adroitly manages to shape its version of the trouble that the onus of the whole business is made to fall upon the shoulders of the railroad commissioners. The truth is that in arranging the freight tariff the rate upon lumber was left by the commissioners where it had always been. A minimum rate was fixed, and it was left with the railroads to fix the rates to suit themselves, with the understanding that the lumber interests were of such vital importance to the roads themselves that there could be no room for disagreement. So far as the settled policy of every railroad in the state—or in the country for that matter—to foster and develop the lumber interests of the section through which it runs. Particularly has this been the settled policy of the Atlantic and Gulf railroad. Recognizing this fact, the commissioners made no attempt to interfere with the rates which have heretofore existed between the roads and the lumbermen, but merely fixed a maximum. This whole matter was left where it had been for the reason that the contracts seemed to be satisfactory to both parties, and there were no complaints.

But this action—or, rather, this non-action—of the commission was taken advantage of by the lumber roads most interested in developing the lumber trade. They immediately abrogated the special rates which had been in operation and adopted the maximum rate of the commissioners' schedule. This is the whole matter in a nutshell. Without stating this—probably because the fact had not been called to their attention—the News sums up as follows:

The action of the lumber roads in changing the tariff on lumber from a special rate to a maximum rate, was a most unbusinesslike and ungenerous move, and one that has done much to injure the lumber trade in the south.

much to the railways as to important and valuable industrial enterprises in the state, and, therefore, to the state at large. Second, that the commissioners give additional weight to the fact that the lumber roads are the only ones in the state that do not pay their freight on a maximum rate, but on a special rate. This is a most unbusinesslike and ungenerous move, and one that has done much to injure the lumber trade in the south.

In our opinion it also proves another thing, and that is, if the railroads are left to themselves they will not scruple to deprive the people of their rights in order to swell their gross earnings. In regard to the case that has been brought, and which will be heard in Atlanta shortly, it is not the case of the lumber roads versus the commission, but the case of the railroads against the people.

Republicanism in Georgia. We have already alluded to the difference of opinion that exists between the white republicans of Georgia and the colored voters in regard to the proper distribution of offices, but the situation is so unique—so full of the native humor for which the negro is famous—and so seriously to heart, that we are tempted to return to the subject not only on account of the interest which we feel in the political future of our colored fellow-citizens, but because the discussion of the question affords an agreeable diversion from the graver topics that are either worn threadbare, or that are not sufficiently developed to require editorial treatment.

We might be tempted to sympathize with the white republicans if they meet the emergency with any display of tact or with any suggestion of manliness; but in these respects they display a most lamentable lack of nerve and of discipline. They pretend, in the first place that their recent meeting, under the auspices of Mr. Jonathan Norcross, was not a movement in opposition to the colored men, and in the same breath admit that the great majority of white republicans in Georgia are so bitterly opposed to the negro that they will not even go to the polls and vote the republican ticket because, to that extent they would be compelled to associate with colored men. What effect the cool announcement of this remarkable fastidiousness will have upon the negro remains to be seen. But it is not to be borne in mind that they have not betrayed any undue sensitiveness with respect to the attitude of white republicans heretofore, and as likely as not they will treat the whole matter in that spirit of lofty humor which is an excellent disguise for subservience. The truth is, the recent declaration of independence by the colored leaders was a piece of pardonable bluntness, and it is a little surprising that it should have been so inclined to view it as such. The negroes have become so accustomed to fetch and carry at the beck and nod of the white republicans that they are not yet prepared to take charge of their own affairs. They are competent to do so, but they cannot at once throw off a habit which the white leaders have taken care to nurse and foster until it has become one of the most prominent characteristics of negro subservience.

Conservatism in this matter is not by any means political, but in the interest of the welfare and development of the negroes themselves, and with a view to hastening the day when their hopes and desires as citizens of the state may in some sort assimilate with the purposes of the white people in all matters pertaining to the political and material prosperity of the commonwealth.

Further reason, and for no other, we have been tempted to applaud the recent movement of the colored men. But at the same time, it was and is perfectly apparent to us that the negroes are not prepared to carry out the designs of the more thoughtful of their leaders. The movement in the convention was a mere wholesome hint of what may take place at some period in the future. In no other way can we account for the aggressiveness of the white republicans; in no other way can we account for the boldness with which the statement is made that there are republicans in Georgia whose prejudices against the negro are so violently unreasonable that they will not go to the polls and vote for fear that the night might in some way compel them to associate with him. Mr. Norcross is evidently convinced that in his hands lies the means of coercing the negro voters, for he knows that without their aid and support the white republicans would never have the smallest opportunity of tasting the sweets of office.

A remarkable fact in this connection that has not previously been alluded to, is that during the proceedings of the recent convention when Bryant thought he was weak in the matter of immigration, he was nominated for the chairmanship of the executive committee, he could have carried the convention by a large majority. This was apparent to any close observer. A colored man named White was nominated in opposition, and in the midst of the clamor that ensued, Bryant became demoralized for the first time, and stamped his friends with the L. K. initials. If he had stood his ground, he would have carried the convention. Even as it is, he accomplished his purpose, and it has been hinted that he will still remain the able chairman of the committee. It is to be observed, moreover, that in the meeting at which Mr. Norcross dived down the gamut of the high-toned republicanism, Bryant was conspicuous by his absence.

We refer to these things merely as matters of desultory interest. They have no sort of bearing upon the campaign. So far as Georgia is concerned, the republican party is a thing of the past. Mr. Jonathan Norcross and his fastidious republican friends may stay away from the polls on grounds of social propriety, or they may venture out; the colored men may attempt to control their own affairs, or they may allow Bryant to control them by proxy; but the democratic party will retain control of state affairs, and if the white republicans hold any offices they will have to depend upon the not very hopeful contingency of a republican victory in the presidential election. Even in that event, they will be asked if they have any other claim beyond the fact that they managed to organize sufficiently to make a feeble attempt to support an electoral ticket.

It is now called the mean way committee, and it is the only one of its kind in the state. The democrats have a majority of eight on the ways and means committee, and the country will rightfully hold the democratic party responsible for any failure to lessen the burden of custom house taxation.

John K. K. will harmonize, perhaps, if Conkling would release him from his spring contract.

The business men of New England are for Maine. These esteemed citizens seem to like the favor of credit mobility.

—This week Adelaide Nelson will continue her New York engagement, Annie Foster will talk comedy, and the Philadelphia orchestra will play the new opera, "The Slave's Song." The Royal Academy will also give a performance.

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In the far western states seventeen miles and a quarter (including the distance from the state capital to the nearest railroad station) is a distance of seventeen miles. There is a striking similarity in the names of the two states.

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A torso lady who has a red-headed drummer for a sweetheart, alludes to her fiancé as "a fellow who is a fellow."

The revenue department proposes to make a raid on the distillers of mountainous Georgia. One of the distillers, who has been fined ten thousand dollars, but it broke up a hen's nest in White county.

COMMISSIONER RAY says he proposes to make things warm for the illicit distillers in Georgia. We are to suppose then that the revenue men are to be temporarily withdrawn from the political contest and to be drawn from the political contest and to be drawn from the political contest.

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